

12/7/25

Elegant English

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

The words in this game are not obscure, but they are not commonly used in everyday conversation. For example, most of us would say, “The star of that movie had black hair and very pale, white skin.” But perhaps a more elegant word choice would be to say that the movie star had *alabaster* skin.

In this game, we provide a list of “elegant” words. You should first try to come up with the correct definitions on your own. If you can’t, we have provided three definitions from which you must choose the correct one.

We will be posting this game format regularly until we complete the alphabet. This week, we are looking at elegant words that begin with the letter **R**.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first word and ask for its definition. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year’s blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may “buzz” in and answer.
4. If no one comes up with the correct definition, read the three possible answers.
5. As before, the first player/team to signal may give an answer. If the answer is incorrect, the others may “buzz” in.
6. Score 10 points for each correct answer. Play until all questions have been asked and answered.

12/7/25

Elegant English

INSTRUCTIONS: In this game, we provide a list of words that are not obscure, but not very commonly used. You should first try to come up with the correct definitions on your own. If you can't, we have provided three definitions from which you must choose the correct one.

1. Raconteur (rack•on•TER)
 A: A person who makes rackets for badminton, squash, and pickleball
 B: A person involved in organized crime
 C: A person skilled in telling stories and anecdotes

2. Rambunctious (ram•BUNK•shiss)
 A: Speaking very quickly
 B: Noisy; lacking in restraint
 C: A very large, busy, and ornate collage painting

3. Rarefied (RARE•if•eyed)
 A: A thin slice of meat cooked only for seconds with a kitchen blowtorch
 B: Thick, hot, and damp air often found in caves
 C: Extremely high or elevated; lofty or sophisticated

4. Rebuke (re•BYOOK)
 A: To argue or answer rudely
 B: To refuse a gift or charity
 C: To sharply criticize or express disapproval

5. Recalcitrant (re•CAL•sit•rant)
 A: A student particularly unable to learn mathematics
 B: A first-year dental student
 C: Stubbornly resistant to authority or control

6. Recant (re•CANT)
 A: To refill a decanter of wine
 B: To reject a formerly held belief
 C: A dressage movement in which the horse trots backward

7. Recondite: (RECK•on•dite)
 A: Difficult to understand; obscure; arcane
 B: Simple; plain; effortless
 C: To return a large house that has been split into multiple condominiums
 back to a single-family home

8. Rancor (RANK•er)
A: A feeling of deep anger or ill-will
B: A small, arboreal, South American monkey
C: A perishable food that has gone bad
9. Recrimination (re•crim•in•A•shun)
A: To commit the same crime again and again
B: An angry accusation made in response to an accusation against you
C: A page or more in the back matter of a book where the authors recognize people who contributed in some way.
10. Redress (re•DRESS)
A: To make an old style of clothing fashionable again
B: Archaic term for moving to a new home
C: To correct an error, fault, or evil
11. Remunerate (re•MYOON•er•ate)
A: To add cheese to the top of a casserole
B: A letter written to warn a potential employer against the character or skills of an applicant
C: To pay or compensate
12. Restive (REST•iv)
A: Impatient; fidgety; edgy
B: Patient; calm; relaxed
C: A section in a piece of orchestral music in which only one instrument plays
13. Reprove (re•PROVE)
A: To reprimand or scold
B: To show multiple forms of evidence
C: To install a new finish on a masonry wall or walkway
14. Revere (re•VEER)
A: A highly polished silver surface
B: To ride a horse at a gallop for more than four hours
C: To love uncritically; adore

12/7/25

Elegant English

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Raconteur | C: A person skilled in telling stories and anecdotes |
| 2. | Rambunctious | B: Noisy; lacking in restraint |
| 3. | Rarefied | C: Extremely high or elevated; lofty or sophisticated |
| 4. | Rebuke | C: To sharply criticize or express disapproval |
| 5. | Recalcitrant | C: Stubbornly resistant to authority or control |
| 6. | Recant | B: To reject a formerly held belief |
| 7. | Recondite | A: Difficult to understand; obscure; arcane |
| 8. | Rancor | A: A feeling of deep anger or ill-will |
| 9. | Recrimination | B: An angry accusation made in response to an accusation against you |
| 10. | Redress | C: To correct an error, fault, or evil |
| 11. | Remunerate | C: To pay or compensate |
| 12. | Restive | A: Impatient; fidgety; edgy |
| 13. | Reprove | A: To reprimand or scold |
| 14. | Revere | C: To love uncritically; adore |